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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Marriage of Soviets Serving Abroad to Foreign Nationals

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[redacted]

1. [redacted] in either the "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA" or in "PRAVDA" that a regulation which prohibited Soviet citizens serving abroad to marry foreign nationals was being rescinded and that it was permissible for Soviet Army officers and enlisted men to marry foreign nationals. 1. 50X1

[redacted] this regulation applied to all Soviet citizens serving in various parts of the world. He specifically mentioned Germany and China. 50X1

One condition of this marriage to foreign nationals was that the person marrying a Soviet citizen, male or female, would have to return to the USSR upon expiration of foreign service tour of the sponsor.

2. [redacted] rumors had it that a junior sergeant did marry a German girl shortly afterward. [redacted] what unit the sergeant was assigned to or in what part of Germany this marriage allegedly took place. This marriage was to have been witnessed by East Germany's President Wilhelm PIECK. At the ceremony, the soldier was supposedly presented with an automobile by President PIECK. 50X1

3. [redacted] it was nothing more than so many words on paper as far as the common soldier was concerned. He stated that it might be possible that the new regulation might be applicable in the case of officers and certain civilian employees. However, he expressed doubt that an officer would want to marry a German national for fear of being placed on a "suspicious and keep under surveillance" list which would jeopardize his military and political careers. The same would apply to civilian employees. 50X1

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4. That enlisted personnel were also included in the regulation was nothing more than a formality. To state that only officers and civilian employees could obtain permission to marry would be obvious discrimination against the enlisted man in the eyes of the Soviet public. So for their benefit, the enlisted men were also included in the regulation. To begin with, the soldier serving his term of obligatory service in Germany was confined to the camp or caserne in which he was stationed. The only time he left these areas was when he went on maneuvers or if he had to fulfill a mission which required him to travel to some other camp or military establishment. At these times he was accompanied by an officer or a sverkhsrochnik (long-term reenlistee). Consequently, there was no possibility for him to meet a German girl whom he could marry.

5. Officers and sverkhsrochniki who enjoyed the privilege of leaving the camp or caserne after duty hours were, [redacted] kept under surveillance and did not dare to strike up any companionship with the local German populace. [redacted]

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[redacted] two other sverkhsrochniki went to town on a Sunday afternoon. They browsed around, stopping in two or three pubs to have a beer. He stated that they were well-behaved and certainly were not intoxicated in the least. The next day, the trio were called up before the battalion CO and given a good dressing down for drunkenness and sitting out in restaurants and pubs. The CO, however, did not once make any mention of contact with the local populace. [redacted]

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that this failure might have been for one of two reasons. First, the trio had occasionally observed the battalion CO in one of the pubs dancing with an old German "worn-out hag" and perhaps because of this he might have restrained himself from mentioning direct contact with the populace. Second, [redacted] to be on the safe side of the regulation the battalion CO preferred to discourage them from visiting public places inhabited by the local populace, thereby curbing their contact with the Germans. In any event, [redacted] the new regulation was just another meaningless piece of paper in the eyes of the Soviet soldier.

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6. [redacted] if the regulation were valid where the Soviet soldier was concerned many of them would willingly remain in the army in Germany. The life of a celibate did not seem to have any strong appeal to the Soviet soldier serving in Germany.

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1. [redacted] Comment: A Western newspaper carried an article on 26 July 1954 in which the anti-Communist Information Bureau West reported the lifting of a nine-year ban prohibiting Russians to marry Germans.

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